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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM (1243)

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 SCS-06 HA-05 PA-01
INR-10 INRE-00 MCT-02 SY-05 SYE-00 CA-01 H-01
OC-06 L-03 /071 W
----------057803 241902Z /42

Z 241600Z NOV 78
FM CDR, COMUSJTF,/GEORGETOWN,/GUYANA /AHF2
TO JCS WASH OC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
SEC STATE WASH OC
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN GUYANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L UNTIL CLEARED BY U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT
OR AMERICAN EMBASSY GEORGETOWN
COL GORDON SENDS.
1. WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE IN JONESTOWN AND BEGAN TO FERRY BODIES, THERE WAS AN UNDERESTIMATION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER BECAUSE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCURATELY COUNT BODIES AS THEY WERE BLOATED INTERTWINED. SMALL CHILDREN AND SMALL ADULTS HAVE BEEN FOUND U' DER LARGER ADULTS. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS NUMBER MORE. HAVE ALREA BAGGED 475 TO 500. 200 TO 300 MORE TO BAG. ESTIMATE TOTAL OF 800 PLUS AND MAY BE EVEN MORE.
2. WITH THOSE 800 PLUS OR MORE AND 74 LIVE ONES UNDER GUYANA POLICE SURVEILLANCE, COL. GORDON'S ESTIMATE IS THAT WE WILL BE CLOSE TO THE TOTAL NUMBER THAT LIVED IN JONESTOWN. WE ARE COUNTING BEDS IN JONESTOWN TO PROVIDE A CLOSER ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER THAT LIVED IN JONESTOWN.
3. THE GDF HAVE SENT PATROLS SINCE SATURDAY INTO THE SURROUNDING JUNGLE.
4. INDIAN TRACKERS WORKING FOR GDF HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY SURVIVORS OR REFUGEES.
5. TRAILS LEADING OUT OF THE JONESTOWN AREA HAVE SOME PEOPLE

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LIVING NEAR THEM WHO WOULD HAVE SEEN SURVIVORS. GDF AND LOCAL POLICE HAVE INTERVIEWED OMEM AND REPORT NO REFUGEES SEEN.
6. POLICE ADVISE RIVER MOUTHS LEADING TO SEA HAVE BEEN COVERED SINCE SATURDAY AND NO BOATS HAVE BEEN SEEN OR PICKED UP. GDF AND POLICE HAVE TALKED TO THEIR OWN MEN STATIONED IN RIVER VILLAGES, THEY REPORT NOSIGHTINGS OF SURVIVORS.
7. MAJ WELMING OF JTF ACCOMPANIED BY MAJ JOHNSON, COMMANDER OF GDF PIRANHA BATTALION RECCONOITERED TRAILS LEADING TOWARDS VENEZUELA IN USA CH-53. THEY FOUND NOTHING. RECCE BASED ON MAP FOUND IN JONESTOWN SHOWING POSSIBLE ESCAPE AND EVASION ROUTES. NO RECENT FOOTPRINTS NOTED ON TRAILS. TALKED TO LOCALS AND POLICE IN AREA, THEY REPORTED NO SIGHTINGS OF REFUGEES.
8. AT FIRST LIGHT, 24 NOV, LT MERCER, 193RD INF BGDE, CZ, LEAD A PATROL TO SCOUT JUNGLE ROUTE HEADING 325 DEGREES FROM JONESTOWN. THEY FOUND NOTHING. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY GDF SOLDIER WHO HAD BEEN ON EARLIER GDF PATROLS, TO DETERMINE IF GDF HAD MISSED ANYTHING.
9. THIS MORNING WE TOOK FORT BENNING UH-1H HELICOPTERS FROM MEDEVAC UNIT, PUT BULLHORNS ABOARD, AND SENT THEM ON CLOVERLEAF

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PATTERN RECCE FLIGHTS IN ALL FOUR DIRECTIONS FROM JONESTOWN. THEY IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS U.S. ARMY HELICOPTERS, ASKING ANY U.S. CITIZENS TO COME OUT ON TRAILSAND WAVE THEIR ARMS IF THEY WISHED ASSISTANCE. SO FAR NO ONE HAS RESPONDED.
10. TALKED WITH MR. MARTIN, A VICE COUNSUL OF THE EMBASSY, WHO HAS JUST COMPLETED INVENTORY OF CEMETERY TO EAST OF JONESTOWN TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER GRAVES THERE TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING THE QUESTION

OF NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HAD BEEN LIVING IN JONESTOWN. IDENTIFIED ONLY FIVE, REPEAT FIVE, GRAVES AT CEMETERY.
11. SUMMARY. THIS IS CURRENT AVAILABLE INFO TO ASSESS SITUATION TO FOR USE IN RESPONSE TO PRESS OUERIES AS TO THE NUMBER OF LE WHO MAY HAVE ESCAPED TRAGEDY OF JONESTOWN.
SOUTHCOM (FOA SOUTHCOM PLEASE RETRANS TO ANY CONCERNED YOU FEEL SHOULD HAVE INFO)
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EOT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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